

Capital 11-12-05

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## Del. Franchot to challenge Schaefer

Comptroller William Donald Schaefer's cozy relationship with Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. has ticked off many Maryland Democrats. State Del. Peter Franchot plans to test just how deep that discontent runs with Democratic voters.

Mr. Franchot said yesterday he will challenge the comptroller in next year's Democratic primary, saying that even though he has a lot of respect for Mr. Schaefer, "I think it's time for a change. It's time for a new generation of leadership."

Mr. Franchot said he has watched "over the last three years as Gov. Bob Ehrlich has taken our state in the wrong direction. Through it all, his biggest supporter has not been a member of his own cabinet or even the lieutenant governor. It's not been a member of the Republican Party leadership or a Republican legislator. His biggest supporter has been William Donald Schaefer."

The 84-year-old comptroller could not be reached for comment yesterday, a state holiday.

Mr. Franchot, 57, has been a member of the House of Delegates from Montgomery County since 1987. He is a frequent critic of Mr. Ehrlich and has a left-of-center voting record in the House.

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